Supply and requirements of foodgrains

2649. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantity of food articles fixed for general consumers with the fair price shops in the country is far less than their requirement;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the consumer has to depend on the open market for fulfilment of their requirements;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the prices of food articles are increasing continuously in the open market and they are beyond the reach of general consumer particularly for those who are living below the poverty line;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to increase the quantity of food articles being provided to these consumers through fair price shops in order to stop their dependance on the open market;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that such a step taken by Government would also check the rising prices of the food articles in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f): Only about 10 to 12% of the total foodgrains produced in the country are procured by the Government for the Public Distribution System (PDS). PDS is supplemental in nature and is not meant to meet the entire requirements of the consumers. Within these limitations, however, an effort is made to reach a greater share of the total requirements of the poorer consumers by many State Governments/U.T Administrations. Even the quantities distributed under the PDS have a positive moderating influence on the prices of these commodities in the open market.

Demand and supply of foodgrains

2650. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are not being provided with foodgrains and kerosene as per their demand;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any criteria for fixing the percentage of supply proportion to their demand to all the States;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for not supplying the quantity demanded in equal proportions to all the States by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Allocations of PDS commodities to States UTs are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total demand of any State or U.T. Demands made by States are, however, also taken into consideration while making PDS allocations, along with other factors like availability of commodities in the Central Pool, *inter-se* requirements of States, seasonal factors etc. To meet the gap in domestic demand of PDS commodities, arrangements are made by the Central Govt. for import also, where necessary. However, decision to import any commodity for the PDS is taken by the Govt. keeping in view the balance of payment position, international prices of the commodity and the over-all need.